

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
745 SECOND STREET, LA SALLE, IL.
6:30 P.M., Monday, March 3, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Alderman John Lavieri.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present- Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

Excused Absent- Alderman Ptak

Alderman Lavieri noted for the record that Mayor Grove was not present at the time the meeting was called to order (due to work commitments) but plans to arrive at some point during the meeting.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Schneider to appoint Alderman John Lavieri as Mayor Pro-Tem.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None. Absent: Alderman Ptak Pass: Alderman Lavieri

Motion carried 6-0

READING OF THE CALL

The purpose of the meeting will be discussion and further report to residents on all matters related to frozen water lines and related matters and potential action related thereto.

Alderman Lavieri introduced Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Bumgarner who then reviewed the steps the City has taken in regards to frozen water lines over the past weeks. Superintendent Bumgarner explained the methods that have been utilized, most not resolving the issue. Several Aldermen reiterated that this is not a problem unique to the City of La Salle. The majority of the frozen lines seem to be located in the service lines from the curb stop to the main. Superintendent Bumgarner discussed La Fayette Street in detail as the entire 1200 block is without water. He explained that it has been determined the water main is in fact frozen. He believes the freeze began in the service lines and extended to the main. It has been determined that the main runs through the middle of the street and is buried approximately 2 1/2 feet deep. The shallow depth of the main combined with its location in the middle of the street contributed to the main freezing. Interim City Engineer Brian Brown indicated the current standards require mains to be 5 to 5 1/2 feet deep, but older guidelines specified and allowed shallower depths.

Discussion followed. Suggestions were made by the residents as to possible remedies including the use of a hydraulic warming blanket that was possibly available through Illinois Truck and Equipment of Morris as a solution for the La Fayette Street issue. Superintendent Bumgarner will look into this option immediately.

Mayor Grove arrived at 7:01 p.m.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to remove the Mayor Pro-Tem and install the Mayor.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None. Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

Motion carried 7-0

The Mayor informed the residents that at this point the City has exhausted all known resources in regards to the thawing of lines and therefore is ceasing thawing operations. Mayor Grove stated that the City will investigate, assess and seek sources of funding to make the necessary repairs to those issues which are

the City's responsibility. The Superintendent of Public Works and City Engineer will begin formulating a plan to repair the water main issue on the 1200 Block of La Fayette once the weather warms and analyze other areas that may be of concern. Interim City Engineer Brian Brown indicated that water main work requires EPA permits which can take up to three months to secure.

Mayor Grove also informed the residents that the City would no longer be utilizing Town and Country Services on its behalf. If a solution comes forth which would require their assistance, operations would be reinstated.

Several residents had concerns that their water bills had not been adjusted as promised by the City. Mayor Grove and Comptroller Joanne Milby advised anyone with a concern to stop by City Hall and the bill would be investigated and adjusted if need be. However, Comptroller Milby explained that the bills are based on usage, not date.

Several residents asked if the City could do more to assist with getting water. Currently residents are filling up containers at the Fire Station, but several residents explained that this creates a hardship. The Mayor stated that we will investigate some other options in regards to this issue.

One resident expressed concern regarding the amount of time it took the City to react to this situation. Mayor Grove took full responsibility and explained that the City has never dealt with the large amount of frozen lines at one time, therefore it took some time to formulate a plan as there was no precedent to refer to.

Mayor Grove thanked the residents for their continued patience and cooperation during this difficult time and encouraged them to bring any concerns or suggestions forward. He asked that they contact his Administrative Assistant Beth Swingel at 815.223.0077 if they needed immediate assistance getting water delivered to their home or to notify the City of any other concerns they may have.

7:41 p.m. Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Schneider to enter into Executive Session regarding probable and/or potentially imminent litigation and related matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)11 of the Open Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None. Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

Motion carried 7-0

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to exit Executive Session and reconvene the regular Council meeting.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None. Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

Motion carried 7-0

COMMENTS

There were no additional comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 8:14 p.m.

Carrie Brown, City Clerk